

U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND



IRAQ MUSEUM INVESTIGATION

22 April 03 – 10 Sep 03



JIACG Team

- On site:
 - 4 military members:
 - 1 USMC Colonel, 2 USA Captain, 1 USAF SMSgt
 - 9 DHS/ICE (US Customs) Special Agents





Investigative Methodology

- **Multi-pronged approach:**
 - **Determine missing items**
 - **Dissemination of photographs**
 - **Community outreach & Amnesty**
 - **Develop confidential sources for investigative raids**



Inventory





Dissemination of Photographs

- **INTERPOL**
- **London Metropolitan Police (Scotland Yard)**
- **Italian Carabinieri**
- **US Department of Justice**
- **FBI**



Amnesty

- Community outreach with local religious leaders
- Over 1700 antiquities returned





Raids and Seizures

- Within Iraq over 900 pieces captured during raids
- Outside of Iraq over 750 pieces seized at US Customs checkpoints and at International gateways
- Several open investigations



Years Before the War

- Gold and jewelry moved to Central Bank of Iraq
- Royal Family jewels (6744 pieces)
- Treasure of Nimrud (616 pieces)





Months Before the War

- Bomb shelter in western Baghdad
- Ancient manuscripts and books (39,453 pieces)





Weeks Before the War

- “Secret Place” used by staff to hide smaller gallery pieces (8366 pieces)
- Confirmed and inspected 4 Jun 03



Chronology

- **8 April 2003 - Last staff left museum**
- **9-12 April – Looters entered museum**
- **12 April – Some staff members returned**
- **16 April – US Forces entered the museum compound**
- **21 April – JIACG Investigation Team arrived**



Numbers

- 170,000 is wrong
- Numbers are misleading





Administrative Areas

- Wanton destruction





Public Galleries

- Of 451 display cases, 28 broken
- 40 exhibits stolen, 10 recovered





Public Galleries - Recovered

- Warka



- Bronze Bull





Public Galleries - Damaged

- Sixteen other pieces damaged in galleries
- Golden bull's head moved to vault





Heritage Room

- Islamic furniture and fine porcelain
- 236 stolen, 167 recovered, 69 still missing





Restoration Room

- 199 stolen, 118 recovered, 81 still missing





Storage Rooms (Magazines)

- 8 rooms, 5 entered, 3 have items missing
- 10, 000's clay pots, shards, weapons, tools
- Inventory not completed





Storage Rooms Old Magazines

- No sign of forced entry on shared exterior doors
- 2703 pieces stolen, 2449 recovered, 254 still missing





Sniper Position

- Firing position on second floor





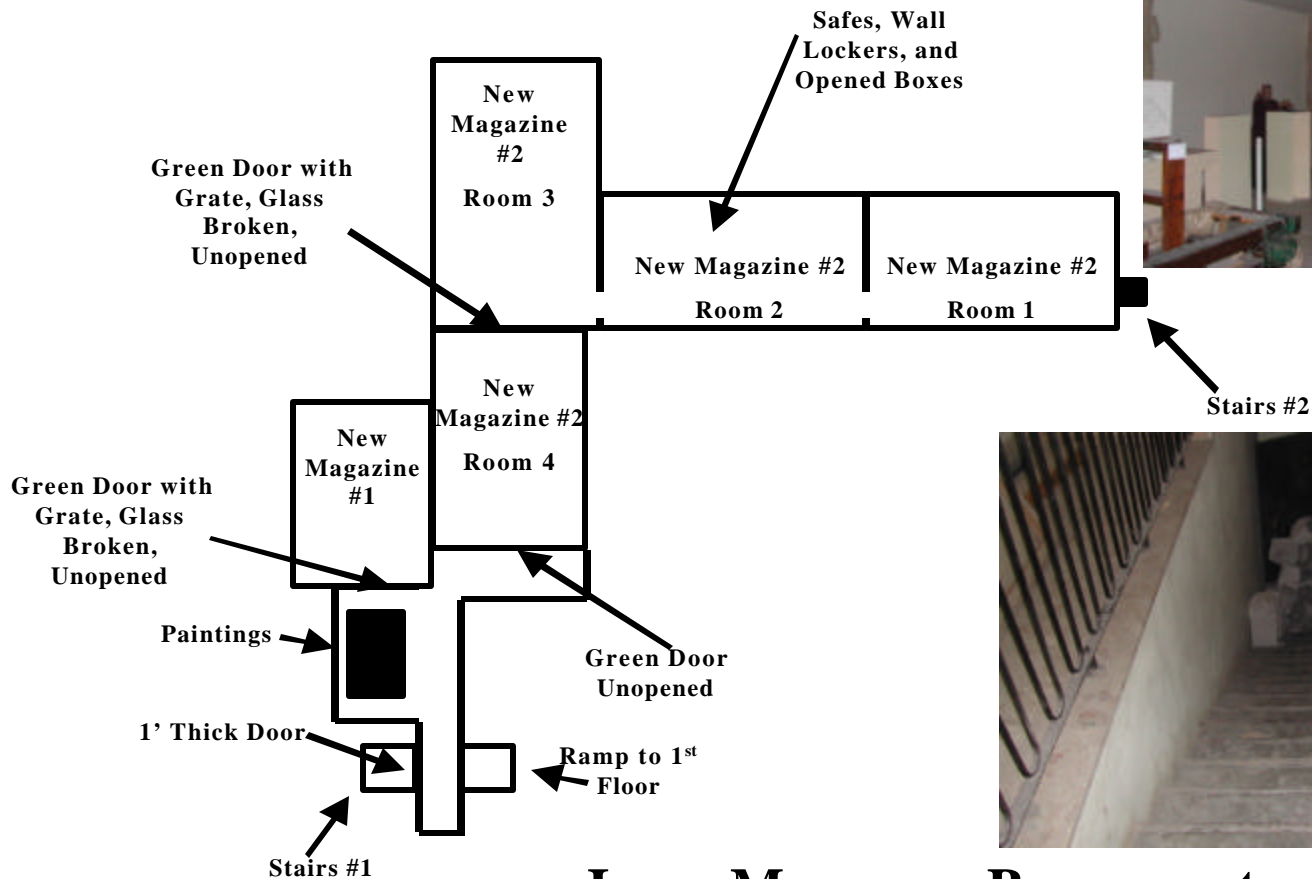
Evidence of Iraqi Forces

- Iraqi Army uniforms throughout museum compound
- RPGs





Basement Storage Room New Magazine



Iraq Museum Basement

Not to Scale



Insider Knowledge

- 30 cabinets containing coins and cylinder seals
- Cardboard boxes untouched





Plastic Boxes

- 103 boxes containing cylinder seals and small jewelry (beads, pins, necklaces)
- 10,337 stolen, 667 recovered, 9670 still missing





Dynamics of Thefts

- **Professional: Public galleries (40 exhibits)**
- **Random: Old Storage Rooms (3138 artifacts)**
- **Insider: Basement Storage Room (10,337 artifacts)**



Recovery Methodology

- **Excavation-site pieces (Old Storage Rooms)**
 - Random looters – Requires local efforts
 - Majority of “looted” items have been recovered
- **High-value artifacts (Public galleries)**
 - Buyers and borders
- **Inside job (Basement)**
 - Publicity
 - Inspection & interdiction

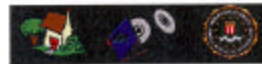


Websites

- FBI



Art Theft Program



About Us



Legislation



Theft Notices & Recoveries



Related Sites

Spotlight

Operation Iraqi Heritage

The Iraq Museum is a national archaeological museum that serves as the repository for all artifacts excavated in Iraq. It contains hundreds of thousands of objects covering 10,000 years of human civilization, representing many different cultures and styles. Many objects have been looted from the National Museum, and other museums and archaeological sites in Iraq, and may appear on the art market through illicit trafficking. In response to the looting, the United States Government dispatched a team of military investigators and Special Agents to identify stolen artifacts and facilitate recoveries of these objects.



Top 30 Missing Iraqi Artifacts

Stolen property depicted in the Art Theft Notices may have since been recovered and returned to its rightful owner. Contact the FBI to confirm the status of stolen art information.

[About Us](#) | [Legislation](#) | [Theft Notices & Recoveries](#) | [Related Sites](#) |
[Art Theft Home](#) | [Headquarters and Programs](#) | [FBI Home](#) |


If you have difficulty accessing any material on this site because of a disability, please contact us in writing or via telephone and we will work with you to make the information available.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Content Manager, FBI Home Page
505 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 7972



Websites

• INTERPOL














9 September 2003

- Interpol Information
- Terrorism
- Fusion Task Force
- Wanted
- Children and Human Trafficking
- Works of Art**
- Recent Thefts
- Discovered
- Unclaimed Items
- Posters
- Object ID
- ICOM-Red List
- International conventions
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Drugs
- Financial crime
- Corruption
- International crime statistics
- Forensic
- Football hooliganism
- Vehicle crime
- Regional activities
- Information Technology Crime
- Weapons/Explosives
- Criminal Intelligence Analysis

Home | Search | Contact

Cultural Property Stolen Iraqi Art

This information was provided by the Iraq museum, Baghdad via the British museum, London.

 <p>Copper statue base with the lower part of a seated figure holding the socket for a staff, with an inscription of King Naram-Sin of Akkad, c. 2250 BC. From Basekti (IM 77823).</p>	 <p>Headless, inscribed statue of King Entemena of Lagash, c. 2400 BC (IM 5). [58]</p>	 <p>Headless, inscribed statue of King Entemena of Lagash, c. 2400 BC (IM 5). [58]</p>
 <p>"Warka Head" - lifesize female head, c. 3100 BC. From Uruk (IM 45434). [21]</p>	 <p>Ivory of lion attacking Nubian, c. 850-750 BC. From Nimrud (IM 56642). [175]</p>	 <p>Limestone head of Parthian style. Hatra (IM 56777 left)</p>
 <p>Head of Trajan. From Hatra (IM 73039). [234 centre]</p>	 <p>Limestone head of Tyche. From Hatra (IM 73010). [234 right]</p>	 <p>Head from marble of a seated god. From Hatra (IM 73010). [245]</p>
		



Wanted Poster



1. IM #45434, US Customs #1. Sumerian white marble mask of female deity, life-size, 21.5cm



2. IM #77823, US Customs #14. Bassetki Statue, with Akkadian inscription, copper, 25.5x70cm, weighs 150KG



3. IM #56642, US Customs #4. Ivory plaque of lion killing a Nubian, Assyrian from Nimrud, 1x10.5cm base, 9.8 high



4. IM #513, US Customs #28. Bronze bull in bas-relief, Sumerian period, 46x91cm



5. IM #5, US Customs #3. Gray diorite statue of Entemena, Sumerian, 15x76cm, weighs 150KG



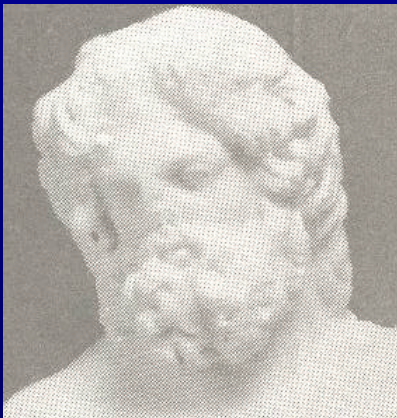
Wanted Poster



6. IM #unknown, US Customs #23. Copper head of Goddess of Victory, from Hatra, almost life-size.



7. IM #58086, US Customs #12. Gray stone head of female deity, from Hatra, almost life-size, 7x39x70cm



8. IM #73005, US Customs #7. White marble head of Poseidon, from Hatra, life-size



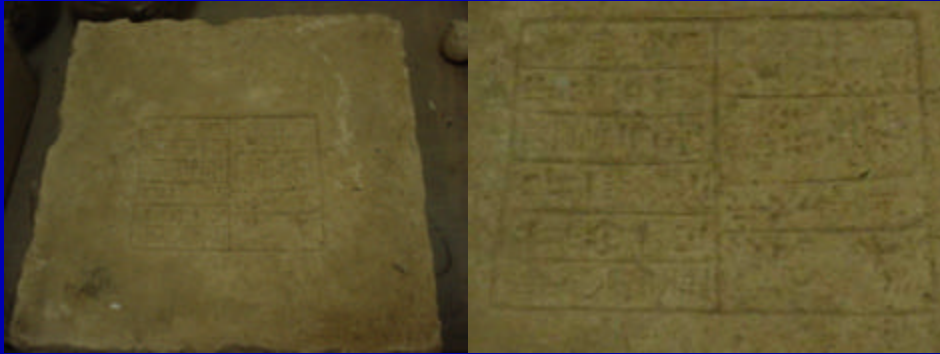
9. IM #73004, US Customs #8. White marble head of Apollo, from Hatra, life-size



10. IM #73041, US Customs #9. White marble head of Eros-Cherub, from Hatra, almost life-size



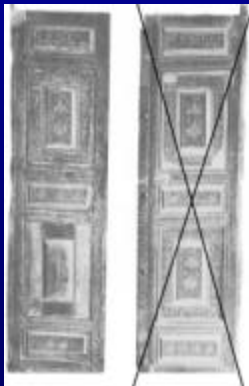
Wanted Poster



11-19. IM #24730,14168, US Customs #41-49. 9 sand-colored cuneiform bricks. Each piece slightly different, but roughly. 10x30x30cm. Full view and close-up.



20-21. IM #10253A, 9619A, US Customs #52-53. 2 Gray Islamic tombstones, 10x23x35cm



22. Catalogue #277, IM #A677, US Customs #13. Islamic wooden left door, right recovered. 40x213cm



23. IM #8221, US Customs #16. Sumerian Plate inlaid with shell, 13.5x27cm



24. IM #78205, US Customs #17. Sumerian "Domino" Plate inlaid with shell, 7x14x28cm



Wanted Poster



25. IM #5572, US Customs #29. Upper part of Sumerian sand-colored, stone statue of male priest, almost life-size, 15.2x38cm

Similar in appearance



26. IM #unknown, US Customs #60. Marble money box, from Hatra, 61cm dia, 45cm high. Similar, but with straight sides and may be without the lid.

Similar in appearance



27. IM #unknown, US Customs #54-56. 3 Islamic period stucco ornaments from single exhibit, from Kufa. Photo similar to actual piece., 7.6x12.7x20cm



28. IM #118622, US Customs #57. Assyrian bronze model ceremonial chariot, 1 meter square with four sides and axle

Similar in appearance



29. IM #unknown. Chair back white ivory relief, from Nimrud, Assyrian period. 1x50x91cm.

Similar in appearance



30. IM #84075, US Customs #51. Black Babylonian boundary stone with inscription, photo shows front and back, 17.5x37cm



Recovery To Date

- **3411 total recovered**
- **1732 from Amnesty program**
 - **1731 in Iraq**
 - **1 in US**
- **1679 from raids and seizures**
 - **911 in Iraq**
 - **768 outside Iraq**



Future

- **Long-term investigation**
- **International cooperation**
 - **Between countries**
 - **Between law-enforcement & art communities**
 - **Among federal, state and local authorities**